

COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,

5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

7 The **LORD** hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

8 Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt.—*AMOS, Chap. viii.*

TO THE
PEOPLE OF PRESTON;
ON THE CATHOLIC PROJECT AND ON THE CORN PROJECT.

Kensington, 8th March, 1827.

My EXCELLENT FRIENDS,

In addressing myself to you, I address myself to all the working classes (especially those of them who are manufacturers) in the whole kingdom. As to the *Catholic-Project*, indeed, you may have a little deeper interest than

the people of England *in general*; but, as to the *Corn-Project*, all are equally and most deeply interested.

On the first of these subjects I shall not have to detain you long. There are, however, a few things that strike me as being worthy of your attention; and the

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[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]



first of these is, that this question was brought forward, the other night, with great ostentation, and, apparently, great assumption of meritorious generosity, by Sir **FRANCIS BURDETT**, who piques himself upon being the most *consistent* politician in the whole world, and who, more than ten years ago, I believe, rose, when this old, battered question was brought forward, said that he would not sit in the House to give his countenance to such a farce, as he called it; and, thereupon, marched out of the House with back as straight as a curtain-rod. In proof of his boasted *consistency*, this is the second time that he has been at the head of those actors who have exhibited this piece upon the stage.

As further proofs of his consistency, he highly complimented the Government upon its habit of keeping good faith; he praised **PITT** a little above the skies; he said that **PITT** had promised the Catholics emancipation; that it was evidently his great final object,

to accomplish that purpose, and that he had done every thing that he could to produce such accomplishment. Just towards the close of his speech, he observed, that he was *almost ashamed* to say any more upon this subject. It was pity that this sentiment did not prevail with him at an earlier stage of his speech; but, after the above compliments and many others to the Ministers and to **PITT**, he appears to have made a motion in somewhat the following words; namely, "That this House "deeply felt impressed with the "necessity of taking into con- "sideration the present laws in- "flicting penalties and disabilities "upon their Roman Catholic fel- "low-subjects, with a view to re- "moving them."—I copy this from the *Morning Chronicle*, and, it is possible, that it may be incorrect; but, if these were really the words; if this mover upon this "great occasion" did actually put such a sentence together, let the rest of the world judge of the truth of the following words,

taken from another part of the report of his speech; namely, that "England stood first of all the "nations that *ever existed* in point "of *intellect, information, and* "general *instruction.*" Not in grammatical instruction, at any rate; for, if such be the grammar of "England's Glory" what the devil must be the grammar, what the intellect, what the information, and what the general instruction of the ordinary run of men?

At the end of two days' or, rather, two nights' debating, the last of which was on Tuesday the 6th instant, the House divided, when, as the newspapers tell us, there were two hundred and seventy-two votes for the motion, and two hundred and seventy-six votes against it; so that, the question of Catholic Emancipation, as it is called, was thus negatived even in the House of Commons, by a *majority of four*; thus sparing the Lords the trouble attending a rejection, which rejection they certainly would have given to the motion or to any measure founded upon it.

Before I make any remarks with regard to the *merits* of the question, I must go on to the close of the second day's debate, where Mr. CANNING, in adverting to something that had been said about PITT having changed his opinion upon this question, positively asserted and declared, that he was ready to take his oath of his own belief in what he said; positively asserted, that Mr. Pitt never changed his opinion upon the subject, but continued firmly to entertain it to the end of his life. But, both "ENGLAND'S GLORY" and England's famous "ÆOLUS" forgot to account for the *why* and the *wherefore* in this memorable conduct of Pitt. He went out of office in 1801, because the old King would not agree to Catholic Emancipation. This was expressly stated by him at the time; it was asserted by all his partizans; it was believed in by the whole nation. In 1804 he came into office again; he put out ADDINGTON, who had been Minister in his place; a motion

for Catholic Emancipation was made, after Pitt thus came in in 1804; and Pitt and all his vast majority *voted against that motion for Catholic Emancipation!* And yet we, though we recollect all his suspensions of the Act of Habeas Corpus; though we recollect all his loans and his sinking fund schemes; though we know well that the calamities of the present day all spring from the seed which he and his creatures sowed; though we remember and know these things, and though we see him, in the plenitude of his power, stand, at the head of that immense majority which he had at his command, voting against that Catholic Emancipation to which he was pledged; though we remember and see all this, we are to stand by like soft and silly culls, and applaud those who insist upon the consistency and sincerity of this Pitt.

The apology, or, rather the shuffle, put forward for him is this; that, when he came the second time into office, he still re-

tained all his opinions about this emancipation; still remained determined to accomplish the object in the end; but, "came to a determination not to stir it during *the life of the late king.*" Honest and consistent fellow! He would not only remain in office, but he would take office upon this determination, in 1804; but, he wished so much to accomplish the object, that he quitted office because he could not accomplish it in 1801! If tenderness towards the late king;—it was all a lie, mind; it was all false pretence, mind, on the part of these tricky politicians;—but, if it had been tenderness for the scruples of the late king, which induced him to abandon the Catholic Emancipation in 1804 and to *take* office, with a determination thus to abandon it: if tenderness for the scruples of the late king had induced him thus to act in 1804; pray, my good friends, where was that tenderness, in what curious corner of the fellow's breast was that tenderness towards his late Ma-

jesty lodged, when he turned his back upon the old king and his scruples in 1801? The cause of the Catholics was the same; it was precisely the same in 1804 that it had been in 1801, with this exception, that there were three years of additional injustice to be removed. The scruples of the old king were still the same. The opinions of the Minister were still the same. His majority was as great in 1804 as it had been in 1801. The country was at war in both these years: all things and all parties remained the same as nearly as possible; and, yet, we are to be told, there are men to be found impudent enough to tell us, that this was a sincere, and even a wise minister; and, what is still worse, if possible, we are to see no man to stand up to contradict, to expose, to scout, to trample under foot such bare-faced assertions!

So much for what we may call the *extrinsic* matter of this long, and noisy affair. As to the *merits of the question itself*, they lie in a

very small compass. Those who are for the question talk about the feelings of the people of Ireland; about the probable dreadful consequences of their discontents; about the wonderful effect which the putting of a dozen lords into the House of Peers, three score Catholic Members into the other House, and silk gowns upon the backs of three or four dozen of O'Connell's lazaroni, the wonderful effect that these would have in making the people of Ireland *happy and peaceable*. They *ought*, indeed, to show what tendency these would have to put meat, bread and beer into the bellies, cloth and linen upon the backs, leather upon the feet; and blankets and sheets upon the beds, of the working classes in Ireland; for, unless the change had a tendency to produce these effects, in some degree, at any rate; unless the change had a tendency to produce these effects, what man worthy of the name of legislator or politician; what man desirous not to be thought a fool or a hypocrite,

will affect to believe, that it is a want of a sufficiency of food and of raiment ; that it is bodily suffering ; that it is *horrid want*, that produces ninety-nine hundredths of the broils, of the crimes of every description, committed in that unhappy country ?

Those who take the other side of the question, those who oppose Catholic Emancipation, as, for instance, the **MASTER of the ROLLS**, during the present debate, rail in good round hand manner against the pope and the devil ; they bring up “ bloody Queen Mary,” as they have the injustice to call her ; they call up the massacre of St. Bartholomew, the burnings of the **Duke of Alva** ; the hangings and rippings up of all the Catholic persecutors that they can think of ; and this they do with the greater security, because, having nobody but Protestants to face them, they are sure to be told of none of the bloody works, and unexampled cruelties of every description of good Queen Bess, *that first female head of the church*

that ever was heard of in the world. When they have exhibited a pretty full picture of what they call “ the atrocities of Popery,” they then assert that Popery remains *wholly unchanged* ; when they have done that, they proceed to show that, give the Catholics an inch they will take an ell ; let in the Pope’s toe, slap will come his foot ; and that, therefore, unless we have a mind actually to be burned in Smithfield, we must make a stand where we are. Some men may laugh at this ; but, this is a mode of proceeding, the best possible for carrying the point which these orators have in view.

For carrying their point with the *mass of Protestants* ; but, they have a select body to address themselves to, in this case ; namely, those who are interested in the maintenance of *the Protestant Church as by law established*. If they can convince this body, that the granting of the prayers of the Catholics would endanger any part of the established Church,

that is to say, if they can convince them, or even make them believe it *possible*, that the granting of the prayers of the Catholics would tend to lessen the value of the Church lands, of the bishoprics, of the several livings ; if they can convince them of this, their work is completed ; and to convince them of this (supposing them to have but a very moderate portion of common sense) *is by no means difficult*. It was to this great point that the **MASTER** of the **ROLLS** (Sir John Copley) directed the main strength of his battery during the late debate. I do not think that his speech had any influence at all, as to the *division* ; for, that which is called the Catholic cause has been blasted, in England, ever since O'CONNELL wanted to barter away the rights of the forty-shilling free-holders. On the division, therefore, I do not think that Sir John Copley's speech produced any, or, at most, but very little effect ; but, it confirmed men in the opinions which they had formed ; it

was an able statement of that which was dictated by common sense ; and it proceeded upon the basis that men are to be and will be governed by their interests, by their known, settled, solid interests, rather than by speculative patriotism ; that you in vain endeavour to terrify them with possible and distant dangers, if, in order to remove those possible and distant dangers, they must make certain and immediate sacrifices. It was, in short, the great argument ; and it unfortunately happens for the Catholics, that those who have to plead for them have *no answer to SIR JOHN COBLEY, founded in reason* ; that they have nothing but *assertions* ; those assertions not admitting of proof, and being, too, such as **NO MAN WILL BELIEVE TO BE SINCERE.**

The plain statement is this : the opponents of the Catholics say, " We would grant you what you ask, but it would enable you to overset the Protestant Establishment and to cause its immense

" property to be applied to public purposes ; and we offer you reasons to show that you would be naturally desirous of making this use of the power which we should give you."—This was, in substance, what Sir John Copley urged home. It was quite admirable to behold the various shapes and forms in which he presented it to the House. It was sense, and it was sense which appears to have been wonderfully well expressed. PLUNKETT, BROUGHAM and CANNING, the three greatest talkers of our day, all made long speeches in answer to him ; but, not one particle of the *effect* of his speech did they remove, or, even, make any thing like a sensible attempt to remove, from the mind of any one of his hearers. The utmost that they arrived at was this : to assert that the Catholics HAD NO DESIRE *to overturn* the Protestant Establishment ! This was all, and this was to be believed by no man upon earth in his senses.

The great disadvantage which

this cause of Catholic Emancipation, as it is called, labours under, is, that its pretended advocates dare not avow that the wishes of the Catholics are what they are. If the Catholics were to petition, in so many words, for a REPEAL of the Established Church, and, of course, for an abolition of all tithes and Church rates and Church dues of every description ; if they were to do this, they would have with them ninety-nine hundredths of the Protestants of England ; if they were to petition for an application of the tithes to the maintenance of the poor, as was the case in Catholic times, they would have us all with them to a man, except those who give away and those who possess the bishopricks, the livings and all the eight millions' worth a-year which is now kept for the use of this established Protestant Church and its clergy ; if they were to petition for such an alteration of the law as would prevent the tithes and other Church property from being possessed by married men, they would have all

the Protestant *men* with them, at any rate, except the parties before mentioned, their relations and immediate friends. To petitions of this sort, Sir John Copley would not find it so easy to give an answer. He would then have to defend tithes, which Mr. Plunkett is quite as ready to do as he is; he would then have to show that it is better to have a religion, the clergy of which swallow up all the revenues of the Church, than to have a religion, the clergy of which

kept all the indigent poor out of those very revenues. This would give Sir John Copley something to do; but, as long as the pretended advocates of the Catholics shall continue to assert that six millions of people would be made as happy as princes and as harmonious and loving as turtle-doves by merely putting about six dozen of Catholics into Parliament, putting big wigs upon the heads of, perhaps, a quarter of a dozen of lawyers, and silk gowns upon the backs of perhaps a couple of dozen of fellows that are now bawling in cam-

let; as long as the pretended advocates of the Catholics shall continue to assert this; as long as they shall continue to talk for whole hours without enabling us to perceive that any possible practical good to us Protestants would be the effect of that which they plead for; so long will they plead to us and to the Parliament with just as much effect as they would plead to Gog and Magog, requesting them to descend from their stations in Guildhall.

Those who "*support*," as they call it, the Catholic Petition, talk, as I observed before, a good deal about the dangers to the "*Empire*," as they bombastically call this kingdom; the dangers that will arise to the "*Empire*," to this puffed-up "*Empire*," from something or other which, in case of WAR, might happen, from the discontents of the Catholics, arising from their not being "*emancipated*;" they talk about this, however, in so very vague a manner, that one can hardly guess at their meaning. They do not men-

tion the manner in which the danger would show itself; but you can perceive that they think, or would seem to think, that France, in case of war, would assist the Catholics of Ireland in obtaining something or another for the Catholic religion; or would at least endeavour to do it, and would thereby foment rebellion and greatly divide the strength of the bladder-blown *empire*. Now, for my part, I, were I an Irish Catholic, should never rest my hope on the disposition of France to do any thing efficient in this way; but there is **ANOTHER COUNTRY**, to which I, were I an English Minister, should, in case of war of any duration, look with a great deal of apprehension, unless Ireland were in a state of real tranquillity and content: I MEAN **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, where there are always 40,000 volunteers, Irishmen by birth, or the sons of Irishmen, ready to embark, finding their own arms, accoutrements, and clothing, in an expedition, for what

they would deem the deliverance of their country. **BOSTON HARBOUR**, or the Narrows at *New York*, are a great deal farther off in measured miles than the Harbour of **BREST**; but, if there were on a certain day a convoy with twenty transports in the ports of **BREST**, consisting of French ships and French men, and, on that same day, a convoy with a similar number of transports at Boston or New York; if both were to be ready to start on the same day, for any given point in Ireland, I would make an even bet to the amount of all I should be worth in the world, shirt and all, that, if there were no impediment in the way of either, **JONATHAN** would be first upon the land. It is a great way to come, to be sure; but I came it once in eighteen days; ships without number have come from *New York* to *Ireland* in fourteen days; an American ship will, on an average, cross the Atlantic in three-fourths of the time required by English ships, and in half the time required by French ships. **JONATHAN**

THAN knows, not only the shortest way, but precisely the time, the manner, all the circumstances, which, in such a case, it is necessary to understand. PAINE said, in one of his pamphlets, it was indeed in a letter to Jefferson, which was not intended to be published, "ten thousand Americans, " landed in Ireland, with 30,000 "stand of arms, would make a "prodigious change in the affairs "of this world." I know, almost as well as any man can know, who does not see with his own eyes; at least I most firmly believe, that, if the late war for "deposing JAMES MADISON," had continued another year, there would actually have been an *expedition from the United States for an invasion of Ireland!* I had this information from what I deemed very good authority; and the gentleman who talked to me about it, told me, that he had no doubt at all of something more than a fair chance of success. I heard him at first, in a manner, as one listens to ban-

ter; but, he soon convinced me that it was by no means a matter to laugh at. In the United States there is every requisite at all times ready; the best of ships; the best of sailors; the ablest of ship commanders; men, at once the most sober, the least talkative, and the most resolute; at once the best of heads upon the stoutest and hardiest of bodies. The Irishmen who are in America, are become pretty much like the natives themselves; and, it is not "*Catholic Emancipation*" that would content *them*, if they were once put in motion. They do not amuse themselves about "*Catholic Emancipation*." They think and talk about quite other things. I hope, I pray, that such a change will be made in Ireland as shall make the people happy and contented, and firmly attached to their Sovereign and to England; but if that should not be the case, and there should arise a war of any considerable duration, between England on one side, and France and America on the other side, I know

of nothing that I should dread so much as an attack to be expected from the other side of the Atlantic. One would imagine, that the Yankees did enough during the last war to fill us with most serious thoughts when we contemplate the probable effects of future hostilities against them; they have performed the most wonderful feats of hardihood and of dexterity mixed that ever were heard of in the world. A man who was a prisoner in DARTMOOR prison, assisted others, though he had all his life been a sailor, in a manufactory of forged bank of England notes in that prison; he traversed the country, living upon some of those notes; got to Liverpool; by means of his friendly notes, he got carried out from Liverpool, and put on board of an American privateer, that was swaggering up and down St. George's Channel, making prizes of fishing-boats and other small craft, and sending them off with printed papers, declaring the islands of Britain and Ireland to be in "*a state of*

rigorous blockade." Yankees can stretch as well as other people; but this man, who had been a captain of a vessel, and whose vessel had been sold at a port in HOLLAND, had come to England in 1817, and went out to NEW YORK in the same ship with me in the month of March of that year. He might *stretch*, as sailors are very apt to do; but it is certain that he was in DARTMOOR prison; it is certain that he traversed the country from DEVONSHIRE to LIVERPOOL; and it is certain he there found the means of getting out into the channel, on board of an American privateer, for I had these facts related to me by a gentleman, at NEW YORK, who knew them all well. We should, therefore, know beforehand the sort of people we should have to fight with. They coolly undertake things which nobody else would dream of; and to observe their coolness in situations the most perilous, is perfectly astonishing to those who are strangers to their

manners and their conduct. In every way they would be enemies most formidable; but in no way so formidable as in that which I have above pointed out. If we had a paper-money afloat, they would stuff us with forgeries: there is no artifice that they would not employ, and no hazard that they would not run. Let us therefore be *prepared*; and let us, above all things, make Ireland happy and contented; and that too by something a great deal more efficient for the purpose than that mockery which is called the "*Catholic Emancipation*."

Here I should put an end to my remarks upon this annual, or biennial, discussion. But, I cannot help just observing upon the constant practice of the Catholics of duping themselves. How they triumphed upon the *increase of liberal members*! How they exulted in the vast acquisition which they had in the "*honourable and gallant Colonel Torrens!*" I, for my part, do not believe that their cause has, in reality, either ad-

vanced or retrograded. I believe that it is just what it was two years ago, with this trifling exception, that, perhaps, a few men in Parliament may have been influenced by the disgusting conduct of O'Connell and his lazaroni; and, that many thousands, out of doors, have been disgusted by that conduct. The difference between this time, and the month of March, 1825, is this; that, then, many men would hear you with *patience* when you pleaded for Catholic emancipation; and that these same men will not, now, hear you at all, either with patience or without it; and, beyond all doubt, this change has been produced by the attempt of O'Connell and his lazaroni to barter the rights of half a million of their countrymen, for the sake of gaining silk gowns and seats for themselves. I put it to you, Catholics of the borough of Preston: you know what *you felt* at the last election, upon being cut off from your right to vote; upon being compelled to be false to your religion, or to withhold your

voice at that election. You know what you felt then. Now, then, let me put it home to you; let me put this question home to every one of your bosoms: if the law, as it stood in May last, had allowed you to vote; and, if one of your Catholic countrymen had proposed to the Parliament to pass a law to take this right from all the poorer part of you, upon condition of his acquiring a privilege to sit upon the bench, or to sit in Parliament, would you not have cried out against him as the most iniquitous of all mankind? And, if you had failed to do this; if you had huzzaed him and carried him upon your shoulders after this attempt, could you have blamed us, your Protestant countrymen, if we had grown cold in your cause; if we had cared nothing about you, or about what became of you, especially when we reflected that the argument of *poverty*, on which you were to be disfranchised, would, with equal reason and justice, be applied to all the poor Protestants of Preston? In your answer to that question, you will find a great deal more than sufficient reason for what is now called the decline of the Catholic cause. That justice will be done to all our Catholic countrymen at last, and that, too, at no

distant day, I not only hope but believe; but, come the redress how it may, or when it may, certain I am, that it never will come, in consequence of any act or any proceeding of any sort, in which this O'Connell and his crew shall have any hand.

So much for the **CATHOLIC PROJECT**. I now come to the **CORN PROJECT**; and, here I have a great deal to say, though I have hardly left myself time to say it in. In my last Register, which, as my readers must have perceived, was sent to the press in great haste, I made a slight mistake as to one particular point; namely, I said that there never could be a handful of foreign wheat brought into the country to be consumed under *eighty shillings the quarter*. It should have been *seventy shillings the quarter*. The tax being twenty shillings when our own wheat sells at an average of sixty shillings, I added the twenty to the sixty, which made eighty, not adverting to the circumstance that the tax was to diminish two shillings on every one shilling of our own price above sixty.

I notice this merely to obviate *cavil*, all my objections to the proposed measure remaining substantially the same as before stated.

My adventure in search of cheap wheat at Rotherhithe, as that adventure is detailed in the last Register, remains precisely what it was; namely, a clear elucidation of the effect of the proposed measure.

What you are all praying for; what you all expected; what, at least, you had a right to expect, was, that some measure would be adopted to cause you to get your bread cheaper than you are now getting it. Without troubling your heads about statements of principles; about general definitions, about details of particulars; what you all expected was, that something would be done to make your bread a little cheaper, at any rate. On this ground; relying upon this, you were desired to be patient; to bear your sufferings with patience; to hope for better times; to hope that that same free trade which had let in such large quantities of foreign manufactured goods, would, at last, let in corn in such a way as to enable you to eat bread as cheap or nearly as cheap as the manufacturers of those foreign goods. Your horrible situation was acknowledged; it was proclaimed, throughout the world, by a royal edict; a general begging by authority was on foot, to keep you from dying of hunger and of cold: but, the day

was at hand when an opening of the ports, on the principle of free-trade, was to bring you, in one and the same wind, *cheap bread and customers for your goods.*

Now, it is impossible to deny that this is a true representation of your case and of your expectations; and, with hundreds, nay, with thousands of petitions before the Parliament from you and persons like you, praying for a law to make bread cheaper than it is, a measure is proposed; a measure, in all likelihood, that will be adopted and become the law, to make bread *dearer* than it now is. That is the main point for you to keep in view; that this measure will (unless counteracted by the workings of the paper-money) make bread at all times dearer than it now is. I said this in my last Register. That very day the wheat rose two or three shillings a quarter at Mark Lane; and, even before the propositions be moulded into an Act of Parliament, it is not at all improbable that they may have made wheat ten shillings a quarter dearer than it was before; and, it is equally probable that they may have added *a penny or three half-pence to the price of every quartern loaf:* and, observe well, the very same mea-

sure must inevitably have a tendency to diminish still further than it has been diminished, the price of manufactured goods. On the evening when these propositions were brought forward in Parliament, I, being desirous to ascertain what was intended to be done; being desirous to possess this knowledge at an hour sufficiently early to enable me to communicate it through the pages of the last Register, went down into the lobby of the House of Commons; but, tired, at last, of remaining there, I went to a house called the *King's Arms*, kept by one *Brown*, which is very near to Westminster Hall. In the room adjoining that in which I was, there was a committee of "agriculturists," as they call themselves. The partition between the two rooms was so thin, and the agriculturists spoke so loud, that I could hear, very plainly, the greater part of what they said. Amongst other wise sayings, was this, or something to this effect: *Plenty of French claret but no French corn.* And, observe well, that, while the free-trade, as it is called, has made French wines cheaper, has made French silks cheaper, has made every foreign article cheaper which the owners and occupiers of the land consume, a project is

brought in even by these boasters about free-trade, for making their corn; the corn which they have to sell, and the bread which you have to eat, NEARLY DOUBLE the price that they would be at, if the trade in corn were as free as the trade in foreign silk goods.

I should be, however, a most scandalous deluder; I should be worthy of being put upon a level with *ANNA BRODIE*, *BAINES* of *Leeds*, *TAYLOR* of *Manchester*, *BACon* of *Norwich*, or even with that beast of all beasts, *BOTT SMITH*, were I to endeavour to disguise from you my belief that the ministers have been induced to do, upon this occasion, that which, if left to their own choice, they would not have done. The declaration of *Mr. Huskisson*, made so fully last year; his declaration that the restrictions on the corn trade were more injurious to the country than all the other restrictions put together; the eagerness of ministers to let in the bonded corn in the month of May; their anxiety to be enabled to let in foreign corn during the recess; their actually letting in the foreign corn by Order in Council, to, at least, a very considerable extent; their great backwardness in bringing forward this measure now;

the illness of Mr. Huskisson on the Monday, when the measure was brought forward, though it was stated in the newspapers, he attended a Council on the Saturday: all these circumstances lead me to believe, that the ministers, if left to themselves, would not have proposed such a measure as this. It is, therefore, but justice to them, to say that I believe they have been, upon this occasion, influenced by the remonstrances of the *landowners*. I do not say, that these remonstrances ought not to have had weight with them, any more than that your petitions ought not to have had weight with them: but, I think it right, thus explicitly to state my opinion as to the real source of the proposed measure.

On the other hand, justice to the landowners; justice to my own character; the duty of not deceiving you or of undeceiving you: all these call upon me to say that, in thus exercising their influence, the landowners have merely been acting from motives of *self-defence*; not from motives of unfair gain; not from a desire to profit by your loss; but, merely, from a conviction in their minds, that, if they let foreign corn into the English market, they themselves would be reduced to beg-

gary. The pretty paper-kites will reduce them to beggary fast enough, if the present law continue in force until 1829, in spite of every thing that they can do about Corn Bills. They do not see that, however; and, no man in his senses can blame them, they believing, most firmly, that the foreign corn, if let in, would take away their estates; no just man can blame them for endeavouring to prevent a measure and for preventing a measure, which they are firmly persuaded would make them beggars.

They have, too, more than one argument in favour of their assertion, *that dear corn is no harm to you*. They may cite ample experience in support of this assertion. They could remind you that, during the late wars, you had ample employment, your goods were always at high price, your wages were exceedingly great, and that corn was, upon an average, at nearly double the price that it is at now! They could remind you that, when corn became cheap, you fell into misery. They could remind you, that when corn rose again in price during the years of "prosperity," 1823, 1824, and part of 1825, silk-mills and cotton-mills arose by hundreds, your wages became

high, and you were living in abundance. They could remind you, if in so short a period you could stand in need of reminding, that, the moment corn began to fall in price, you began to fall into misery, and that your miseries have increased, as the price of corn has decreased.

Now, these things are undeniably true. They present to the mind a deceptive mass, to be sure; but, landowners are as likely to be deceived as other people; and, when their estates are at stake, is it surprising that they make use of arguments thus apparently conclusive in their favour, though those arguments be wholly founded in error? The truth is this: the price of corn has never had but very little influence in producing your happiness or your misery; never until now; because now it is forcibly kept (though only for a short time, perhaps) at a high price, when the money which is afloat is, comparatively, so small in quantity, as to keep your goods at a low price. It has been the divers variations in the value of money, which have caused your plenty at one time, and your misery at another time. If the paper money were to be poured out in great abundance, you would soon

cease to complain of the dearness of bread.

The state of the matter is this: the sum of taxes to be raised is so great; the expenses of the monopolies arising from paper-money are so great, that the produce of the land must be sold at a high price; wheat, for instance, must be sold at seventy shillings a quarter or more, or the present amount of taxes cannot be collected, *or rents cannot be paid.* This is the state of the case, if the money continue at its present value. But, money is daily and hourly rising to a higher value, and it must continue so to rise (if the present law remain in force) until the month of April, 1829. When that month arrive, the present law having been duly enforced up to that time, you will no longer pray for free trade in corn, for, corn will be as cheap in England as it will be in France.

For the present, and, perhaps, until after next harvest, this corn measure will produce effects favourable to the landowners. It will become nugatory, however, or pretty nearly so, before this day twelve months. The landlords do not see this: they think nothing at all about the paper-money. They think that all that they

want to secure their estates is, a high price for their produce ; and they are firmly convinced that this measure will always give them that high price. Nobody can expect men who have estates, to stand quietly by while those estates are taken away from them. You do not expect this : you are not such fools : but, if you can suggest a method, by which the owners may preserve their estates, and suffer you to have cheap bread too, you may very justly say, that they ought to listen to your suggestion.

The fact then is, that it is the taxes ; it is what these take from the land, that compels the land to resort to high price in its defence, or, as I should rather say, which *induces* the land to resort to that high price. You have a right to call upon the landowners to desist from making you eat dear bread, and, if they wish to preserve their estates (to which you can have no objection), *to take off the taxes*. This is what you have a right to call upon them to do ; because they have the *power* to take off taxes, as completely as they have the power to pass a Bill to raise the price of corn. Here, too, they would have your hearty concurrence. You want to be relieved from taxes as well as they.

Your week's wages is loaded, even in greater proportion than their land is loaded with taxes. So that, here all ought to be of a mind ; and, the question is, the very interesting question is, why do not the landlords prefer to save their estates by the taking off of taxes rather than by calling for a price of food which tends to ruin your employers and to starve you ? This, my friends, is the vital question. All men of sense now see that the Corn Bill, and that all the efforts of the landlords to maintain and preserve *high price*, proceed from the *taxes* ; that is to say, that the present amount of taxes cannot be collected and rents collected at the same time, *unless the produce of the land bear a high price*. This, every man of sense now knows ; the landlords, dull as they generally are, cannot but know this too. In short, they do know it ; and, you will ask then, **WHY** do they not take off the taxes, and save their estates in **THAT** way ; why do they not save their estates in a way that would receive the approbation and even the acclamations of us all, instead of resorting to Corn Bills, and to all those odious means, which are now made use of to impose an enormous tax upon our bread ? Ah !

my friends, this **WHY** is the all important word ! When we get an answer to this **WHY**, we shall want nothing more upon the subject. You may then shut up the **Register**, the readers of the botheration newspapers may fling them into the fire ; we may all draw ourselves into our shells as safely as we can, and patiently wait the **END**.

An answer to this **WHY** *you shall have* from me next week. You shall see clearly, that there is no remedy ; no means of saving the estates, except that one description of means, which I have long been pointing out. You shall see ; you shall be thoroughly convinced ; the fact of your own existence shall not be more evident to your senses, than this fact ; namely, that the lazy, grunting, conceited, haughty, greedy, and cruel beasts, who would much rather see the devil in authority than see me in authority, will at last be blown pretty nearly to the devil, unless they *swallow my dose*, bitter as that dose may be to their throats. We shall all triumph over them, my friends, but no one can grudge me a little more of triumph than any body else. The nasty conceited wretches are in a pretty puzzle-wit at this moment ; but I have no time for further

observation at present. Next week you shall have my full answer to the great **WHY** ; and in the meanwhile

I remain

Your faithful Friend, and

Most obedient Servant,

W.M. COBBETT.

P.S.—I understand that the **Morning Chronicle**, on the report of which I remarked last week, had misunderstood, and, of course, misrepresented what Mr. Alderman Wood said in the House. The report of the **Chronicle** stated, that Mr. Alderman Wood said that he was "*favourable to the propositions.*" This did not please me, who am a liveryman of London, and, of course, one of the Alderman's constituents. I spoke of it as something that I was very much displeased at ; and this has been attended with very good effect, with regard to this my representative ; for, it has brought me that which I am sure is a correct report of what the Alderman did say, and which was as follows : he said, "that he should "not have said a word upon the "subject, if he had not heard "such extraordinary sentiments "delivered by the members for "the Scotch counties, who as-

"serted that the duty on barley
"and oats was much too low.
"Did they consider that barley
"was subjected to a duty (in-
"cluding that on beer and malt)
"which amounted, in the whole,
"to the enormous sum of 50s. per
"quarter? and that the additional
"one of 10s. now proposed, would
"increase it to 60? that this heavy
"imposition would press chiefly
"upon the labourer and artisan,
"whilst the nobility and gentry
"were enabled to save the duty of
"30s. per quarter charged upon
"beer? That he would ask such
"county members, whether they
"could think of imposing a heavier
"duty on oats, the general food of
"the wretched poor of Scotland.
"That after what had fallen from
"the Honourable Baronet, the
"member for Somersetshire, and
"since he appeared to approve of
"the proposed measure, he (Mr.
"A. Wood) thought it was highly
"necessary for the representa-
"tives of populous places to be on
"their guard; and that he con-
"sidered the proposed duties much
"too high, and had no doubt that
"the price of corn would be up
"the next day, since the resolu-
"tions were in favour of the corn
"growers, and against the inte-
"rests of the consumers."

I am glad to have this opportu-

nity of wiping away that which I
really deemed a stain upon Mr.
Alderman Wood, who would prob-
ably have said a great deal
more, if he had been in any place
where he could have got a quiet
hearing. But I do not very well
understand what Mr. Alderman
means by complaining that the
"nobility and gentry" save the
duty on the beer tax; why, I
take special good care myself to
save that duty; I have exhorted
the whole country to save that
duty; ninety-nine hundredths of
the farmers and of country trades-
men save that duty; a great pro-
portion of the labourers and jour-
neymen, badly as they are off,
might save that duty if they would;
and, if they be too lazy, their
wives too sluttish; if they be such
improvident devils as to be re-
duced to the necessity of swallow-
ing the infernal drugs of the mo-
nopolizing brewers; if, to their la-
ziness, their improvidence, the
stinking sluttishness of their wives,
they add a *taste*, a *relish*, for the
drugs; or, which is still worse, a
desire to enrich the grasping mo-
nopolizers that sell the drugged
stuff: if this be the case, let them
not complain of the Government;
let them not complain of the beer
tax; and, Mr. ALDERMAN, as one
of my representatives, let me be-

seech you not to *find fault with me*, because I wish to keep my purse shut against these enormous monopolizers and to keep my throat closed against their deleterious floods.

MR. COBBETT'S
PETITION.

YESTERDAY (the 7th March) the following Petition was presented to the House of Lords by Lord King. His Lordship is reported to have said that he wished the Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs had been present to hear the Petition read. The Petition will speak for itself; and I have only to add, I will not say my *hope*, much less my expectation; but my most earnest wish that the prayer of the Petition may be granted, and especially the latter part of its prayer.

To the Right Honorable Lords Spiritual and Temporal, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of William Cobbett, of Kensington in the

county of Middlesex, dated this 7th day of March, 1827,

Most humbly sheweth,

That, reluctant as your Petitioner is, and as it becomes him to be, to trespass upon the time of your Right Honorable House, he hopes that it is unnecessary for him to inform your Lordships, that, in beseeching your attention to the representations, which he, with all humility, is about to submit to your Lordships on the state of his Roman Catholic fellow-subjects, he can have been actuated by nothing short of that sense of duty to his Sovereign and his Country, which he is sure your Lordships will readily admit, ought to supersede every other earthly consideration.

Though, after the most mature consideration; though after the most diligent inquiry; after the most patient and most impartial historical researches; though the result of all these has, notwithstanding the early planted and deep-rooted prejudices of his youth, and even of a large part of his riper years; though the result, notwithstanding every obstacle in its way, has been a settled conviction in his mind, that the departure from the religion of

our forefathers has produced, and from its outset has been producing, great injury to our country; though he cannot look at the state of England in former times, compared with its state in latter times; though he cannot look into the statutes, passed by our Catholic ancestors, and there behold the indubitable proofs of the ease, the happiness, the plenty of food and raiment, the harmony, the order, the almost total absence of crime; though he cannot, when he compares these with those things of the same nature, now existing in the same country; though, when he makes this comparison, he cannot but feel, that he should be guilty of the basest injustice, were he to withhold an expression of his opinion, that *England has suffered from the change*: still he is too well aware of the violence, the injustice, the numerous and great dangers to his country, which must necessarily arise from any attempt whatever to restore and re-establish that, the abolition of which he regards as so great an evil.

But your humble Petitioner, though he entertains no wish to see the Roman Catholic religion restored and established, in any part of his Majesty's dominions, does, nevertheless, most anxiously

desire two things; namely, *first*, that his Roman Catholic countrymen may be, as to political and civil rights, placed upon the same footing with himself, and with all the rest of his Protestant fellow-subjects; and, *second*, that the revenues of that Church, which now enjoys what the Roman Catholic Church enjoyed, may, like the revenues of the Roman Catholic Church, be applied in the like manner as they were in the days of our Catholic ancestors, *to the maintenance of the destitute poor*.

As to the *first* of these, your Lordships' most humble Petitioner beseeches you to reflect, that the Roman Catholic subjects of his Majesty, suffer great privations, great degradation; and, that they suffer these solely because they adhere to the religion of their and our forefathers; because by quitting that religion, by disowning it, by apostatizing from it, they can, at any moment, remove all the privations and all the degradation, of which they so bitterly, and, in your Petitioner's humble opinion, so justly complain: he beseeches your Lordships to reflect, that we owe the colleges, the universities, the cathedrals, and churches, in which we now worship God; that we owe the division of our country into counties, hundreds and parishes;

that we owe our proudly-claimed and long-exercised dominion of the seas ; that we owe the common law of the land, and those courts of justice, which law and which courts have done more than every thing else done by man to make England happy and great : that we owe, in short, every institution that we really venerate, not only every institution which is worthy of our veneration, but every institution which we really do venerate : your humble Petitioner beseeches your Lordships to reflect that we owe all these ; that we owe all the real renown of our country, to the institutions and deeds of our Roman Catholic forefathers : and, hoping that your Lordships will, in your benignant condescension, be pleased thus to reflect, he cannot but hope, that, thus reflecting, you may be disposed to listen to his humble prayer, that you will, at last, pass such laws as shall cause a cessation of the suffering and degradation of those of our countrymen, who suffer for no other cause than that of adhering with unshaken fidelity to the faith and worship of these our Roman Catholic forefathers.

As to the *second*, your humble Petitioner, though he seeks not to destroy any of the establishments

or institutions of the country, cannot behold without feelings of shame, millions of Englishmen become miserable *paupers* ; and, he cannot but recollect, and your Lordships cannot but know, that **PAUPER** was a name unknown in England in the days of our Catholic forefathers ; and, seeing that your Lordships cannot but know, that the indigent poor were wholly maintained out of the tithes and other revenues of the Church ; seeing, that your Lordships cannot but know that provision was made for the indigent poor, even in the Canons which established a Roman Catholic Clergy ; seeing that your Lordships cannot but know, that it was part of the duty of that Clergy to provide effectually for the indigent poor, out of the revenues of the Church ; seeing that your Lordships cannot but know, that laws were made to transfer those revenues to the Clergy of the present Establishment ; seeing that your Lordships cannot but know, that the Clergy of the present Establishment do actually enjoy those revenues : seeing these things, and bearing in mind the representations above humbly made to your Lordships, your Petitioner, with the most profound respect for your Right Honourable House, but with an

earnestness and anxiety equal to that respect, and with that confidence in the wisdom, the justice and the mercy of your Honourable House, which it becomes him to entertain and to express, he prays, that your Lordships will be pleased to pass an Act or Acts for the accomplishment of the following purposes:

1. For placing his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects upon the same footing, with regard to political and civil rights, as the law has placed his Majesty's Protestant subjects.

2. For causing the indigent poor to be, as they were in the days of our Roman Catholic ancestors, maintained by the Clergy, out of the tithes and other revenues of the Church; and for causing thereby, the degrading, the odious name of *pauper*, to be unknown amongst us, as it was unknown amongst our happy Catholic progenitors.

And your humble Petitioner will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Wm. COBBETT.

CHEAP BREAD,

The unhappy cause of Poaching and Thieving!

THE above seems at first sight to be a strange proposition; but, if the reader will look into the Morning Chronicle of the 28th Feb., and into the report of the debate of that evening in the House of Lords, on the subject of the Game Laws, he will find the Earl of Malmsbury represented as having said, that the great increase of poaching, and of crime generally, was not owing to the Game Laws, but owing to the **LOW PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE!** Now, it is clear that a low price of agricultural produce there must be if bread be cheap; therefore, it follows of necessity, that, if the assertion of Lord Malmsbury be true, **CHEAP BREAD IS THE CAUSE OF POACHING AND THIEVING.**

His Lordship argued thus; owing, said he, to the low price of produce, farmers are unable to employ nearly so many labourers as they otherwise would employ; and, the labourers being from this cause without a sufficient employ-

ment, are compelled to become poachers or thieves.

Fair enough, my Lord, supposing your premises be true ; supposing me to admit that *it is the low price of produce* that thus disables the farmer from giving employment. But, this is not the case, my good **Lord of MALMSBURY** : it is not the low price of produce, but the double rent, the double tithes, the five-fold taxes, which the farmer has to pay : these it is that prevents him from giving employment ; and, if old **HARRIS**, the venerable *schoolmaster* (though a very cunning fellow in his day and way) were to rise from the grave, and swear till he was black in the face, that *cheap bread was an evil to the labouring man*, that labouring man would not believe him.

What I have been noticing here, I give not as the assertion of **Lord Malmsbury**, who, having a pretty large slice annually out of the taxes, must of necessity understand how it is that those taxes operate. He must feel that they bring *good to him*. Well, then, he that receives and he that pays cannot *both of them have good out of the same money*. Suppose that the whole of the noble Lord's share were now to be taken away from the farmers of *one particular*

parish, in addition to what the poor devils already pay. Would they not thereby be rendered less *able* to give employment to labourers ?

However, this is all so plain ; it is so evident ; it is so clearly the taxes and the monopolies arising out of paper-money ; it is so plain that these are the causes, and the only causes of the monstrous increase of misery and crime, that it is useless to say more upon the subject.

HORRID SCOTCH LIE.

I take the following monstrous Scotch Lie from the Morning Chronicle of this day, 1st. March :

“ Many very original opinions
“ have, in this country, been pro-
“ pounded from the Bench ; it may
“ truly be said, that both Divinity
“ and Political Economy are high-
“ ly indebted to the venerable
“ Judges for their volunteer con-
“ tributions.—We shall always
“ remember the demonstration of
“ the infinite *benefit this country*
“ *derived from her National Debt*,
“ and the ingenious theory of
“ Price, sported the other day by
“ a **Lord Chief Justice**, who has

"since been so powerfully backed
"by MR. COBBETT."

Now the plain meaning of this is, that MR. COBBETT has powerfully backed the Lord Chief Justice in his assertion that the *National Debt was a benefit to this country*; and in sporting the theory of *Price*. DOCTOR BLACK here tells the public, or, he here clearly wishes the public to believe, that I have backed a Lord Chief Justice in these two things; and, all but that bamboozled part of the public who suck down the nostrums of the broad sheet, know that the Doctor here puts forth a horrid Scotch lie. Here is a lie, too, upon the Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas; for it was not HE that at any rate cried up the blessings of the National Debt; and in those observations of his, the justice of which I maintained the other day, he, by implication, at any rate, condemns the monopolising system of paper-money.

But what a sneaker this Doctor Black is. He would fain be understood as *sneering* when he talks of my powerful backing of the Lord Chief Justice. Sneering does very well sometimes, but it does not do when there is an argument by which the sneerer is tackled and gets pinned up into a corner; then sneering looks like an angry grin, and is sure to expose the affected sneerer to ridicule and contempt. Let these Scotch feelosophers deal by me as I deal by them: let them first *insert my statement or argument at full length*; and then let them write down their answer on the same paper. This is what they never do. They have neither the industry, nor the talent, necessary to face me; and therefore they slip and slide and shy about; and, when driven from all their skulking places, they come out at last with a brazen lie, as Doctor Black has done upon the present occasion.

MARKETS.

Average Prices of CORN throughout ENGLAND, for the week ending February 23.

Per Quarter.

	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat ..	53 8	Rye	37 6
Barley ..	38 1	Beans	48 7
Oats	29 5	Pease	50 3

Total Quantity of Corn returned as Sold in the Maritime Districts, for the week ended February 23.

Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat ..	37,542
Barley ..	33,874
Oats ...	12,065

Qrs.	Qrs.
Rye	330
Beans	3,116
Pease	1,719

Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.

Quantities and Prices of British Corn, &c. sold and delivered in this Market, during the week ended Saturday, February 24.

Qrs.	£.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat ..	2,033 for 5,739	4 3	Average, 56 5
Barley ..	3,115 ..	5,997 13	1.....38 0
Oats ..	1,919 ..	2,958 2	1.....30 9
Rye	— ..	0 0 0	0 0
Beans ..	857 ..	2,072 7	6.....48 4
Pease ..	478 ..	1,241 15	9.....51 11

Friday, March 2.—The business of this market has chiefly consisted of conversation on the plan of Government relative to the Corn Laws, and there has, therefore, been very

few sales made. The Factors all hold Wheat at higher prices, and demand an advance of 2s. to 3s. per quarter; but there is no difference from Monday's currency on the rates of other articles.

Monday, March 5.—Our supplies of Corn coastwise are not large; and land samples of Wheat are likewise short. The opinion entertained here of the Propositions of Government, is, that it will operate as a prevention to the importation of Foreign Wheat in any quantities; and prices have, therefore, risen 3s. to 4s. for fine qualities of Wheat; but inferior samples are very little, if at all affected. On the contrary, the duties for other articles not being in proportion to those on Wheat, the prices of this day se'nnight for Rye, Barley, Beans, Pease, and Oats, are barely maintained, with a heavy sale. There was some intention of advancing the price of Flour; but it was not finally settled.

Price on board Ship as under.

Flour, per sack	46s. — 50s.
— Seconds	42s. — 44s.
— North Country ..	40s. — 44s.

Price of Bread.—The price of the 4lb. Loaf is stated at 9d. by the full-priced Bakers.

Account of Wheat, &c. arrived in the Port of London, from Feb. 26 to March 3, both inclusive.

	Qrs.		Qrs.
Wheat ..	2,904	Tares	8
Barley ..	4,125	Linseed ..	—
Malt	3,777	Rapeseed ..	—
Oats	828	Brank ..	—
Beans ...	1,002	Mustard ..	—
Flour....	4,918	Flax	—
Rye	—	Hemp	—
Pease....	603	Seeds ...	60

Foreign.—Oats, 519; and Beans, 32 quarters.

Monday, March 5.—The arrivals from Ireland last week were 4,055 firkins of Butter, and 2,257 bales of Bacon. No arrivals from Foreign Ports.

HOPS.

Price of Hops, per Cwt. in the Borough.

Monday, March 5.—Since our last our market remains dull, and prices at our last quotations.

Maidstone, March 1.—There has been some trade this week, and at much about the same prices. The market appears steady, and the Hops will all soon be out of the planter's hands.

COAL MARKET, March 2.

Ships at Market. Ships sold. Price.

8½ Newcastle 5½ .. 28s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.
1½ Sunderland 1½ .. 34s. 0d.— 38s. 0d.

SMITHFIELD, Monday, March 5.

Though the supply on Friday of Beasts and Sheep was unusually short, yet very little business was done; and the Mutton trade was particularly dull. This morning being fine and cool, and a very short market, have occasioned some briskness. Prime beef sells a shade above our currency, but not so much as 17. in 20*l.* For choice sheep an advance has taken place of 2*s.* to 3*s.* a head; but the middling and inferior obtain no better terms than last week. A few choice downns have made 4*s.* 10*d.*; and the best polled Sheep have realized 4*s.* 6*d.*

Per Stone of 8 pounds (alive).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	10	to	5 0
Mutton	3	8	—	4 10
Veal	5	4	—	6 0
Pork	4	8	—	5 4
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0
Beasts ..	2,071		Sheep ..	17,560
Calves ...	102		Pigs ...	120

NEWGATE, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	4	to	4 4
Mutton ...	2	8	—	3 8
Veal	3	8	—	5 8
Pork	3	8	—	5 8
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0

LEADENHALL, (same day.)

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	4	to	4 6
Mutton ...	3	0	—	3 8
Veal	3	8	—	5 3
Pork	4	0	—	5 4
Lamb	0	0	—	0 0

POTATOES.

SPITALFIELDS, per Ton.

	l.	s.	l.	s.
Ox-Nobles.....	3	5	to	3 10
Middlings.....	2	5	—	2 10
Chats	2	0	—	0 0
Common Red..	3	0	—	3 10
Onions, 0s. 0d.—0s. 0d. per bush.				

BOROUGH, per Ton.

	l.	s.	l.	s.
Ox-Nobles	3	0	to	4 0
Middlings.....	2	10	—	0 0
Chats.....	2	0	—	0 0
Common Red..	3	0	—	3 10

HAY and STRAW, per Load.

Smithfield.—Hay....80s. to 110s.

Straw...30s. to 36s.

Clover. 100s. to 135s.

St. James's.—Hay....94s. to 115s.

Straw .. 33s. to 40s.

Clover. 126s. to 135s.

Whitechapel.—Hay....75s. to 105s.

Straw...32s. to 36s.

Clover..90s. to 126s.

AVERAGE PRICE OF CORN, sold in the Maritime Counties of England and Wales, for the Week ended February 23, 1827. -

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
London*.....	57	3....39	9....33 10
Essex	56	0....38	0....28 8
Kent.....	55	2....39	5....29 3
Sussex.....	52	6....39	8....28 3
Suffolk	53	0....35	8....29 0
Cambridgeshire.....	50	0....35	10....25 8
Norfolk	52	4....36	6....28 2
Lincolnshire	52	6....40	10....27 2
Yorkshire	51	8....39	2....27 6
Durham	53	6....40	8....30 9
Northumberland	51	2....37	10....32 6
Cumberland	57	0....35	4....34 6
Westmoreland	60	4....45	0....36 3
Lancashire	59	0....42	6....33 8
Cheshire	57	1....52	9....31 0
Gloucestershire.....	57	4....44	7....35 10
Somersetshire	54	1....41	2....26 9
Monmouthshire.....	58	8....48	0....30 0
Devonshire.....	54	1....37	1....26 0
Cornwall.....	57	1....36	6....29 11
Dorsetshire	51	11....38	8....36 8
Hampshire	54	1....38	8....28 6
North Wales	60	8....44	7....30 7
South Wales	57	9....39	8....26 0

* The London Average is always that of the Week preceding.

Bristol, March 3.—Little business is doing here in Corn, &c. Seeds, generally speaking, sell heavily. The supply of Corn, Flour, and Malt, is not abundant, but fully equal to the demand. The following prices are nearly correct at present:—Wheat, from 6s. to 7s. 6d.; Barley, 4s. 4½d. to 5s. 9d.; Beans, 5s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.; Oats, 2s. 3d. to 4s. 1½d.; and Malt, 6s. 6d. to 8s. per bushel, Imperial. Flour, Seconds, 33s. to 43s. per bag. The prices of Wheat and Flour are expected to advance next week.

Chelmsford, March 2.—The prices of Grain at our market this day are as under:—White Wheat, 60s. to 64s.; Red ditto, 56s. to 60s.; Barley, 36s. to 40s.; Oats, 28s. to 35s.; Beans, tick, 40s. to 48s.; Pease, Grey, 50s. to 52s. per quarter. Clover Seed, 40s. to 42s. per cwt. Tares, 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. per bushel.

Guildford, March 3.—Wheat, new, for mealing, 15*l.* to 17*l.* 10*s.* per load. Barley, 38*s.* to 40*s.*; Oats, 33*s.* to 42*s.*; Beans, 54*s.* to 58*s.*; Pease, grey, 60*s.* to 62*s.*; ditto, boilers, 62*s.* to 64*s.* per quarter. Tares, 12*s.* per bushel.

Horncastle, March 3.—There was a good supply of Wheat and Barley, but not much other Grain. The demand for the best Wheats was something higher; Barley nearly the same; very little doing in Oats; Pease lower; Beans and Rye as our last.—Wheat, from 52*s.* to 55*s.*; Barley, 38*s.* to 42*s.*; Oats, 35*s.* to 40*s.*; Pease, 70*s.*; Beans, 60*s.*; and Rye from 40*s.* to 44*s.* per quarter.

Manchester, March 3.—The demand during the past week has been trivial, the consumers declining to purchase until his Majesty's Ministers' views on the Corn Question were made known. This morning the news brought Mr. Canning's speech in the House of Commons on Thursday evening, when, at our market to-day, the holders of Grain and Flour demanded more money for most articles in the trade. Wheat, of fine quality, was 2*d.* per 70 lbs., Oats, 1*d.* to 1½*d.* per 45 lbs., Beans, 1*s.* per qr., Pease 3*d.* per bushel, and Flour 6*d.* to 1*s.* per sack dearer, but slow in sale at the advance. In Barley and Malt no alteration.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 3.—We had a good supply of Wheat from the farmers, and a large arrival coastwise this morning, for which considerably higher prices were demanded at the early part of the market, under an impression that accounts had been received that the proposition made to Parliament on Thursday night, was to prohibit importation below 60*s.* per quarter; but when it was ascertained that no account had been received, sales were effected at 1*s.* to 2*s.* per quarter above the prices of last week. Rye continues in demand. The ships which have been so long kept back by contrary winds have now arrived, and bring a considerable quantity of Barley, and the maltsters (wishing to see what effect the measures proposed in Parliament will have upon the market) have bought very sparingly of the best samples at 40*s.* and 42*s.* per quarter. Fine Malt continues in demand. We had only the farmers' supply of Oats to-day, which sold readily at last week's prices.

Reading, March 3.—We had a short supply of Wheat to-day, which met a ready sal., at an advance on the average of 1*s.* to 2*s.* per quarter. We note it, Old Wheat, 58*s.* to 68*s.*; New, 54*s.* to 66*s.* per quarter by the Imperial measure. In Barley, Oats, and Pease, no alteration. Beans, are 1*s.* per quarter cheaper.

Wakefield, March 2.—We had a good supply of Wheat here to-day, with many samples from vessels which are in the river, and will be here in a day or two; good and fine samples sold at an advance of 1*s.* to 2*s.* per qr.

COUNTRY CATTLE AND MEAT MARKETS, &c.

Horncastle, March 3.—Beef, 8s. per stone of 14 lbs.; Mutton, 6d.; Pork, 6d. to 7d. and Veal, 6d. to 8d. per lb.

Manchester Smithfield Market, Feb. 28.—Our market was well supplied with Beasts and Sheep; the former were principally of Irish produce, which were not so good to sell only at our lowest quotations. The best Yorkshire were taken off readily at 6½d to 7d. per lb. Sheep were tolerably well sold; best at 7d. to 7½d. per lb.; other sorts became heavy sale, particularly at the close of the market, as the weather became very unfavourable for standing. Pigs were very dull and lower.—Beef, 4½d. to 7d.; Mutton, 6d. to 7½d.; Veal, 6d. to 7½d.; and Pork, 4d. to 5½d. per lb. sinking offal.

At *Morpeth* market, Feb. 28, there was a very great supply of Cattle; fat sold readily at last week's prices: inferior stood long, and were not all sold. There being a short supply of Sheep, they met with ready sale at an advance in price.—Beef, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 3d.; Mutton, 7s. to 7s. 9d. per stone, sinking offal.

Norwich Castle Meadow, March 3.—We had a good supply of fat Cattle to this day's market, prices, 7s. 6d. to 8s. per stone of 14 lbs. sinking offal; and a very small supply of store stock: Scots, 3s. 9d. to 4s. per stone when fat. Pigs, very cheap; fat ones to 6s. 6d. per stone. Meat, Beef, 6½d. to 8½d.; Veal, 6d. to 8d.; Mutton, 5½d. to 6½d., and Pork, 5½d. to 8d. per lb.